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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22852 7590 01/25/2010

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, TUAN VAN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3731	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,427	03/25/2004	Jon Gingrich	06530.0314	6960

TITLE OF INVENTION: MEDICAL DEVICE AND RELATED METHODS OF PACKAGING

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	04/26/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	04/26/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
NGUYEN, TUAN VAN	3731	606-108000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☐ Issue Fee

☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): **(Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1030 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1030 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,427	GINGRICH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TUAN V. NGUYEN	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *1/11/10*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-3,7,8,13-19,21-31,33,34,36-44,46,48,49,51,52,56-59,61,84,86,88-96 and 100*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Daniel Chung on 1/11/10.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 13-19, 21-31, 33, 34, 36-44, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 56-59, 61, 84, 86, 88-94, 96 and 100 allowable. The restriction requirement with respect to Election of Species, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 3/20/08, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims to the elected invention pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a). **The restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.** Claims 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 38, 39, 42, 43, 46, 52, 58, and 59 no longer withdrawn from consideration because the claim(s) requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions of listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, and at least one groove accommodates a portion of the end effector assembly, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly, and ~~when the end effector assembly is in a body of a patient and the spool portion is outside the body of the patient~~

wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive at least one half of a diameter of the elongate member.

3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a width of the at least one groove is substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

4. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the distal portion.

9. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove extends through the proximal portion, the central portion, and the distal portion.

14. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 13, wherein a portion of the at least one groove is wider than the rest of the at least one groove.

15. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member.

16. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove comprises at least two grooves.

17. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 16, wherein one of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member and the other of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate one portion of the elongate member.

18. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a channel.

19. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 18, wherein the channel is defined by the spool portion of the handle.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the channel is defined by the distal portion.

22. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 21, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion, and

wherein a circumferential position of the at least one groove on the proximal portion is aligned with a circumferential position of the channel on the distal portion.

23. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

24. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a notch.

25. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the notch is defined by the spool portion of the handle.

26. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 25, wherein the notch is defined by the distal portion.

27. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the at least one groove is on the proximal portion, and

wherein the at least one groove and the notch are on corresponding portions of the proximal portion and the distal portion, respectively.

28. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive a loop of the elongate member.

29. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive loops of the elongate member.

30. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove includes a radial groove and a circumferential groove.

31. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 30, wherein the radial groove and circumferential groove are connected.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole on the spool portion configured to accommodate the elongate portion therethrough.

34. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole extending through the proximal portion, central portion, and distal portion.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

37. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the central portion.

38. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the portion of the handle that defines the at least one groove is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the portion of the end effector assembly.

39. (Previously Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the portion of the handle that comprises the notch is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the end effector of the end effector assembly.

40. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves, and a plurality of loops of the elongate member is disposed in a groove defined by the handle, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly, and

wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the plurality of grooves.

42. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel.

43. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch.

44. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the groove.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the spool portion.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the groove is defined by the proximal portion.

49. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the groove is defined by the distal portion.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein one portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the plurality of grooves and another portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the another plurality of grooves.

52. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in another groove defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

53 - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein at least some of the plurality of loops are disposed in separate grooves.

57. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein at least some of the plurality loops are disposed in separate pairs of grooves.

58. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the handle.

59. (Previously Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch defined by the handle.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

62. - 83. (Canceled)

84. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle including an elongate portion and a spool portion including a proximal portion, a central portion, and a distal portion and disposed around the elongate portion;

an end effector assembly, wherein the spool portion is configured to actuate the end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle defines a groove, wherein the groove accommodates a plurality of loops of the elongate member and a portion of the end effector assembly, [[;]] ~~and~~

wherein the ~~handle~~ spool defines at least one notch circumferentially adjacent to the groove on the proximal portion of the spool and at least another notch circumferentially adjacent to the groove on the distal portion of the groove, one or more of the at least one notch and the at least another notch ~~and~~ being configured to accommodate a portion of the elongate member, and

wherein the at least one notch and the at least another notch are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim ~~85~~ 84, wherein the groove is defined by the spool portion.

87. (Canceled)

88. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the portion of the elongate member is disposed in one or more of the at least one notch and the at least another notch.

89. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 84, wherein each of the at least one notch and the at least another notch has a width substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

90. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 84, wherein each of the at least one notch and the at least another notch has a width narrower than a diameter of the elongate member.

91. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member forming a plurality of loops and connecting the handle to the end effector assembly;

wherein the handle includes a spool portion, the spool portion including a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a first plurality of grooves are arranged along an outer circumference of the proximal portion and a second plurality of grooves are arranged along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein the first plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the second plurality of grooves, wherein each of the grooves of the first plurality of grooves is separated from each other along the outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the grooves of the second plurality of grooves is separated from each other along the outer circumference of the distal portion, and one of the first and second plurality of grooves houses the plurality of loops, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly, and

wherein at least one of the first plurality of grooves and at least one of the second plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

92. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 91, wherein the one of the first and second plurality of grooves houses the end effector assembly.

93. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the another plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves houses multiple loops of the elongate member.

94. (Canceled ~~Previously Presented~~) ~~The medical device of claim 54, wherein each of the plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the another plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves houses the plurality of loops of the elongate member.~~

95. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves.

96. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein one groove of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves accommodates multiple loops of the elongate member.

97. - 99. (Canceled)

100. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the groove defined by the handle.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not appear to disclose or suggest a motivation to combine a medical device, comprising:

a handle; an end effector assembly; an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion; the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, a plurality of grooves on the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves on the distal portion, at least one groove accommodates a portion of the end effector assembly, at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion, and the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN V. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731
01/18/2010